

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 151150Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9406

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12288

EXDIS

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: RESPONSE
TO REFTEL

REF: STATE 111832

1. 27 - 1 - 1 VOTE MAY 9 IN 40 MEMBER UNESCO PROGRAMME COMMISSION EXPLICABLE IN PART BECAUSE OF SIMULTANEOUS MEETING OF FINANCE COMMISSION AND INABILITY OF SMALL DELEGATIONS TO BE REPRESENTED AT BOTH. WE DOUBT IF NO'S OR ABSTENTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN INCREASED HAD THIS NOT BEEN CASE. LACK OF MORE NO'S AND ABSTENTIONS ALSO PERHAPS PARTLY EXPLICABLE BY LACK OF ADVANCE US LOBBYING EITHER IN PARIS OR CAPITALS. SINCE WE WERE PROCEEDING ON LINE WHICH WE DID NOT KNOW TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH ISRAELI VIEWS AND SINCE WE DID NOT WISH TO OVERPOLITICIZE SESSION AND PROVOKE REVIVED PLO ISSUE BY ACTIVE LOBBYING, WE CONFINED OURSELVES SIMPLY TO INFORMING EUROPEAN DELS OF OUR INTENTIONS ON MAY 8 AND 9. GIVEN PRESENT EC-9 ATTITUDES, WE DOUBT IF MORE ACTIVE LOBBYING WOULD HAVE PRODUCED APPRECIABLY DIFFERENT RESULT UNLESS IT HAD BEEN BEGUN SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER IN CAPITALS.

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2. SECRETARIAT'S RATIONALE IN REMOVING REFERENCE TO

RESOLUTIONS OF 13TH AND 18TH GC IN PARA 5, PAGE 2, OF ANNEX III OF DOCUMENT ON ITEM 4.1.1 WAS TO REMOVE SUGGESTION THAT LIST OF COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED FOR INVITATION TO MEETING AND CONFERENCE OF STATES BORDERING ON MEDITERRANEAN WAS MADE UP WITH REFERENCE TO MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL GROUPS. RATIONALE PRESENTED BY FOBES MAY 9 IN MAKING THIS REVISION WAS THAT INVITATION LIST HAD ITS ORIGINS IN HISTORY OF THIS MATTER DATING BACK TO 1972 AND SECRETARIAT'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NOT BASED ON CONSIDERATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL GROUPS.

3. FURTHER INQUIRIES BY ISRAELI DEL HAVE ELICITED DOCUMENTATION OF 1972 RABAT MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS FROM 8 STATES WHICH SUGGESTED THAT UNESCO ASSEMBLE THE "EUROPEAN AND ARAB STATES" WHICH BORDERED ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. SECRETARIAT BASES ITS DEFENSE ON PHRASE EUROPEAN AND ARAB STATING CLEAR INTENT IN 1972 WAS NOT TO INCLUDE ANY OTHERS AND FACT THAT ISRAEL DID NOT THEN OBJECT. IN CONTRAST, ISRAEL PINS ARGUMENTATION SUCCEEDING STATEMENT IN SAME 1972 DOCUMENT REFERRING TO FACT THAT THE CRITERIA TO BE ADOPTED FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE THOSE MEDITERRANEAN STATES WHICH WERE PARTIES TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTIONS OF 1953, 1965 AND 1959 AND COMPARABLE ARAB CONVENTIONS REGARDING EQUIVALENCES OF DIPLOMAS. ISRAEL ADHERED IN 1971 TO 1953 EUROPEAN CONVENTIONS. IN ANY CASE, UNESSCO SECRETARIAT DID NOT INFORM OR CONSULT ISRAEL FOLLOWING 1972 RABAT CONFERENCE AND ISRAEL DID NOT RAISE OBJECTIONS ALTHOUGH FACTS OF RABAT MEETING WERE OPEN AND WELL KNOWN. LIST OF INVITEES PROPOSED IN PARA 5, PAGE 2 ANNEX III, WHICH FOBES REVISED MAY 9 TO BECOME SINGLE ALPHABETICAL LIST NOT ARRANGED BY REGIONAL GROUPS, WAS EVIDENTLY MADE UP ON BASIS OF POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM THOSE INFORMED BY SECRETARIAT CF PLANS FOR DRAFTING CONVENTION.

4. RE PARA 3 REFTTEL, SEE OUR MAY 14 ASSESSMENT IN SEPTTEL.

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----- 033248

P 151150Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9407

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 12288

EXDIS

5. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL, DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN OUR
12096. INITIAL BOSSIER-PALUN EFFORT DESCRIBED THEREIN
HAS BEEN MADE BUT BOSSIER REPORTS NO SUCCESS AS YET.
WE ARE APPROACHING OTHER INTERMEDIARIES WITH VIEW TO
ACHIEVING BREAK IN APPARENT IMPASSE CAUSED BY ISRAELI
ANNOYANCE WITH DG AND REFUSAL TO APPEAR AS INITIATOR OF
COMPROMISE SOLUTION AND DG REFUSAL TO MAKE NEW MOVE IN
ABSENCE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO HIS MARCH 29 LETTER.
NEXT POSSIBILITY IS MME. HERZOG, COORDINATOR OF UNESCO
HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM WHO LUNCHING MAY 15 WITH ISRAELIS.
RUSH

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